

Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

NEWS RELEASE

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Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) announces recipients of three industry partnership grants

FRANKFORT, Ky. (December 14, 2011) The Kentucky Workforce Investment Board announced today the recipients of three industry partnership grants, ranging from \$60,000 - \$65,000 which will create partnerships that encourage employers to build a talent pipeline to support five industry sectors that the state has targeted: automobile and aircraft manufacturing; transportation, distribution and logistics; business services and research and development; healthcare/social assistance; and energy creation/transmission. Partnerships could also focus on identified, regional industry sector targets.

"The long-term goal of industry partnerships is to create an infrastructure that will provide employer-led training and education that enhances the skills of incumbent workers and develop career pathways for the emerging workforce," said Beth Brinly, commissioner of the Department of Workforce Investment in the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Recipients were Northwest Kentucky Training Consortium (NKTC): Strengthening Partnerships and Sustainability, Bluegrass Partnering Healthcare Initiative for Tomorrow and Northern Kentucky Industrial Park Association (NKIP).

The grants were awarded to industry partnerships that are comprised of a consortium of employer representatives, and where possible, employee associations, organized labor and representatives from the workforce. Information from the industry partnerships will be used to adjust education and training investments to meet the needs of sectors in Kentucky that have been identified through a study as growth industries.

The Northwest Kentucky Training Consortium (NKTC): Strengthening Partnerships and Sustainability received \$59,622 in grant awards. This program will provide needed training to member companies in the advanced manufacturing sector and leverage that training across the consortium to make it available at a low cost. The consortium will also work with Henderson

Community College and the local high schools to evaluate educational needs for certificates and associate degrees that will meet industry needs, such as development of programs in industry electrician, engineering technology and machine tool technology.

Bluegrass Partnering Healthcare Initiative for Tomorrow was awarded \$65,000 to bring the major healthcare stakeholders (government, industry, healthcare workers, and non- profits) together, as a region to build a unified, regional workforce plan for the healthcare sector. Through community resource mapping, the Bluegrass Healthcare Consortium (BHC) will be able to develop a strategy for promoting interagency collaboration thus aligning workforce development programs and services related to healthcare. The map will be used to improve education, workforce development and economic development in the Bluegrass Region by aligning available services and resources, streamlining those services and resources and identifying areas of need.

An additional \$65,000 grant was given to Northern Kentucky Industrial Park Association (NKIPA) – Management Council Industry Partnership. In order to properly plan the manufacturing positions required today and over the next ten years, a survey will be performed of the nearly 400 Northern Kentucky manufacturers, that details the specific positions needed along with the key competencies required for each position. This survey will also help determine new technological equipment that will be purchased and skills that are required to operate it.